

REMARKS:

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement by Office Action mailed October 24, 2006, Applicants elect with traverse Invention I, including claims 1-12 and 38-50. However, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in light of the remarks herein.

The Examiner asserts that Invention I, Invention II and Invention III are patentably distinct. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the method of Invention II can be used to make any type of design into a wood type material, and the product of Invention I could be made using another materially different process such as laser etching. The Examiner argues that the product of Invention III could be made using a process different than that of Invention II, such as laser etching.

There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions: 1) The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and 2) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required. *MPEP 803.01*. In the present application, all claims relate to tonal areas or portions provided in either a molded door skin or an etched plate. Applicants submit that similar searches will be required for Inventions I, II and III, and therefore examination of all claims 1-50 would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Moreover, it will be inefficient to prosecute these claims separately.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement, and respectfully request withdrawal of same. Notwithstanding the traverse, Applicants elect Invention I, including claims 1-12 and 38-50.

It is believed that no fee is due for this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, then please debit Account 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. C. Schrot', written over the printed name.

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